(vi) For the benefit of public a booklet has been brought out which *inter-alia*, describes the features of genuine notes. This booklet has been placed on the RBI's Website besides being available to the public at RBI's Issue Offices. All public sector banks have been instrcuted to continue to accept genuine 500 rupee notes.

(vii) The Central Bureau of Investigation has created a special unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency note cases.

(viii) The BSF has alerted its forward troop to be more vigilent in checking the smuggling of notes across the border. Instructions have also been issued to all State Governments particularly, border states, to be more vigilant.

(ix) A third series of 500 rupee note in the new colour scheme with additional security features is in the final stage of approval and these would be issued shortly. Initially, these notes are proposed to be issued to the public in exchange for the 500 rupey notes issued in 1987, i.e., those with Ashoka Pillar watermark in which forgeries have been detected.

Progress in implementation of Uniform Sales Tax

2052. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review on the progress made in the implementation of Uniform Sales Tax by various States and Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress in various Sates and Union Territories as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Standing Committee of Finance Ministers of eight States to monitor the implementation of uniform floor rates of sales-tax by States and Union Territories. As on date, the Sates of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, and Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh, have implemented the policy of uniform floor rates of sales tax.